

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



No. 477.—VOL. XVIII.]

FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1851.

[SIXPENCE.]

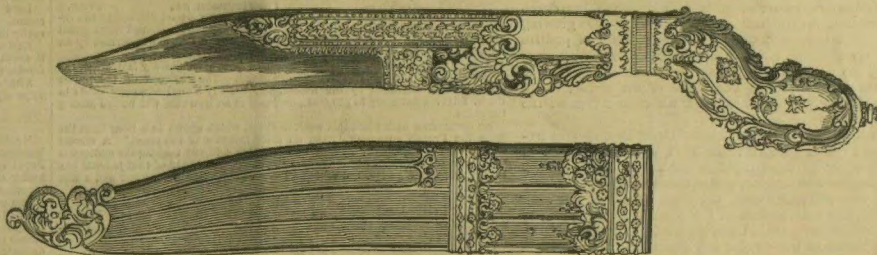
THE CENSUS.

THE scene which was enacted on Monday morning last, throughout the length and breadth of the United Kingdom, was an event of the highest interest in itself, and, in its future results, will be not only interesting but important. The numbering of the people, at regular intervals, is a duty which the people owe to themselves, and to the generations that are to follow them. If this duty had been performed by our forefathers, even during a period comparatively so short as that which has elapsed since the Reformation, the science of social economy, as yet in its infancy amongst us, would have ranked among the positive, rather than among the empirical sciences, and the world would have been both the wiser and the better. The decennial Census of 1841, the fifth ever taken in England, is a vast storehouse of social knowledge. It and its predecessors of 1801, 1811, 1821, and 1831, supply authentic data for the philosopher, the historian, the politician, and the legislator. That of 1851, which, in several important particulars, will be more copious, careful, and complete than either, will throw a flood of light on the real condition and progress of the British people in the intervals between them. The figures will tell tales more eloquent than words, and statistics in their most imposing array will preach philosophy in its most valuable departments.

In its first intention—the mere numbering of the people in the gross and bulk—the taking of the Census is an important act. It is instructive to know how large a family or nation we are—whether we are more numerous than we were ten years ago—whether

any districts have remained stationary since the last scrutiny—whether any are even less populous than formerly—and what are the districts in which the largest increase has taken place. When the facts are known, the causes will be investigated. But the minor subdivisions of the great inquiry, which in this instance, as already

stated, have been far more scientifically and carefully placed before the people for their co-operation than ever they were before, are of more practical value. The Census, when the voluminous returns collected by its army of 30,000 enumerators shall be placed in the hands of another army of penmen and arithmeticians, to classify



CINGALESE DIRK.

and arrange, will show, not only how many men, women, and children we are in great Britain, but in what manner we are all enabled to live. It will tell us the number and increase of our habitations; it will inform us how many live in towns and cities, and in rural districts; how many in huts or hovels not much better than the wigwams of savages, and how many in comfortable or

luxurious houses. It will also show us how many millions depend upon agriculture for subsistence; how many are engaged in those great staple manufactures of cotton, woollen and hardware which carry our name, and fame, and usefulness to the remotest regions of the globe; how many not engaged in the production of wealth, are solely occupied in distributing it, in the various capacities of



INTERVIEW OF THE NEW GOVERNOR OF CEYLON WITH THE NATIVE CHIEFS, AT KANDY.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

wholesale and retail traders and their servants; how many administrators to the luxuries, and how many to the necessities, of the world; how many are neither producers nor distributors, but live on the proceeds of realised property—upon the accumulated labour of the past—upon rent, upon stocks, and upon the interest of money generally; how many subsist idly on the compulsory dole of the nation, as paupers—how many of these are able and willing to work, if work could be provided for them, and how many are impotent and deserving of all help and commiseration. It will also show us how many criminals we nurture among us, and the extent of the feud carried on by the "have-nots" against the "haves"—that old and fierce war to which Civilisation, amid all its triumphs, has hitherto been unable to put an end. It will show, at the same time, the amount of the forces retained by the "haves" to fight against the "have-nots"—the soldiers, the policemen, all the legions of law and justice, who, were it not for this feud, would have but little or nothing with which to occupy themselves, and who might be forthwith disbanded. But all this information, important and interesting as it is, will form but a portion of the multitude of facts which will be elicited by the great inquiry of this week. It is not simply to the physical, but to the moral and the intellectual condition of the people to which those who framed the rules for the taking of the Census of 1851 have devoted their attention; and we shall see in due time the statistics which shall prove our poverty as well as our wealth, our social vices and crimes as well as our virtues, and our ignorance as well as our knowledge. If it shall be proved by these figures, that, notwithstanding our increasing wealth and our matchless industry, notwithstanding the hardworking character of our people, and the variety and prosperity of our manufactures, there is more pauperism amongst us than is consistent with sound economy and justice to all classes, it will be the duty both of our theoretical and practical statesmen, to ask themselves the reason why, and to set immediately about the remedy. If it shall be proved that there is more crime among the population than is profitable to look after, agreeable to confess, or Christian-like to permit, another duty equally, if not more important, will devolve upon the nation. We must know the reason of that also, and without any delay see what is to be done to lessen, and finally to remove it. If it shall be proved, moreover, that amid the millions of our young children—the growing generation of Englishmen—there is a greater amount of positive ignorance in consequence of the want of school instruction, than there is among the children of other nations which do not rank so high as we do among the powers and states of the world, it will also behoove us earnestly to ask ourselves if we cannot remove the disgrace and the evil.

By the Census of 1831, the population of Great Britain and Ireland was found to be 24,410,429. In 1841 it had increased to 27,019,558. Neither of these inquiries embraced the important subjects of education and religion, and in these respects the Census of the present year will afford data, the want of which has long been felt as a serious drawback in all the discussions which have taken place on these subjects. Upon the whole, there can be little doubt that the results of the Census will afford reason for national gratitude and for some national reproof, and give our statesmen something to think of, far more useful and urgent than the recent no Popery squabbles in which they have been so unprofitably engaged.

One interesting fact will for the first time be made known, it has been surmised that the population of Ireland, which in 1841 amounted to 8,175,124 souls, will be found to be considerably under that number in 1851. The awful ravages of famine and pestilence, and the subsequent immense emigration of a panic-stricken peasantry to swell the tide of population in the United States of America, have greatly thinned the Celtic race in Ireland. The Census returns will enable us to compute with tolerable accuracy what that portion of the kingdom has lost by the great calamities of 1847-48, and the popular panic which followed them, and which has not even yet subsided.

Another great country, sprung from ourselves, with a boundless territory for its growing population, with immense undeveloped resources, and in the vigour of its youthful prime, is now engaged at the present moment in a similar task. The Census of the United States of America has been taken within the last month, and we shall, in due time, be enabled to compare their material and moral progress with our own, and to take warning should we on any great point find them wiser or more fortunate than ourselves.

THE NEW GOVERNOR OF CEYLON.

On the 1st February, his Excellency Sir George Anderson, the newly-appointed Governor of Ceylon, held a levee at Kandy, for the reception of the native chiefs and headmen of the surrounding provinces. The attendance on the occasion was very numerous; and the distinguishing dresses and curious costumes made it a very interesting spectacle, such as is not often witnessed.

At twelve o'clock the reception-hall of the Pavilion was thrown open, and shortly afterwards became filled with a large assemblage, who were arranged in such a manner as to separate the different classes. On the right stood the Devas, who wore the costume of a large four-cornered cocked-hat, richly embroidered with gold—on the left, a curious top-knot of jewellery; a large bundle of white cotton and muslin cloths, worn in such a manner as to project very much in front, and supported by a richly-worked girdle, completed the lower garments, altogether making a very strange-looking figure. At their head stood Loto Banda, being the eldest of the highest caste family in the country, and the son of the King of the Interior. The Mahomedans, or Buddhist priests, who are numerous and important in the colony, occupied their position on the left, having the High Priest at their head, holding the wathaphoptha, or fan, in his left hand, used as a badge of office, as well as a sun-screen, and attended by a couple of his pupils (their dress consisted in the usual yellow robe); whilst the Ratt mahotneys, or headmen, with their strange-looking head-dress, the upper part of their bodies bare, and their white cotton under garments, were arranged in one of the side corridors, the hall being too small to accommodate all.

A guard of honour, formed by the 13th Regiment, was in attendance, and presented arms, &c., in due form on the appearance of his Excellency. As it would have been too tedious to receive all those present individually, as is usual in all European levees, a modification of the Indian Durbar was adopted, and a space being left vacant through the middle of the hall, the Governor, his Excellency and suite to pass up and down, the most distinguished persons were received separately. After the reception, his Excellency took the opportunity of addressing a few words, congratulating them on the present very peaceful state of the colony; and thanking them for such a marked expression of their loyalty: all of which was conveyed to them through the medium of the interpreter, and, judging from the appearance of the assembly, was received to with commendable cheer; one of the Devas, who appeared to be the oldest, making an official speech in Chinese in reply. His Excellency then withdrew, and the company retired.

The accompanying illustration shows the scene of the reception. Beneath is represented a richly ornamented and most elaborately worked Dirk, which is a very fair example of the great ingenuity displayed by the Ceylonese in working the precious metals, and the facility they have of designing ornamental work. The handle is made of silver, with gold embellishments; the blade is made of fine native iron, and the sheath is formed by two pieces of carved ivory, fastened together by a single ornamented gold ferrule. This Dirk is worn at the left side of the waist, among the vast folds of their dress.

The little town of Anelys, in Normandy, in which all travellers will easily recognise a town in which the very latest feminine head-gear is reared, has at length determined to erect a statue to the man to whom it is indebted for lasting celebrity—Nicolas Poussin. The 16th of June is announced as the day of inauguration by the French Journals; and a Mr. Brian as the sculptor of the statue.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

Two separate attempts have been made this week by Louis Napoleon to construct a Cabinet. The first was a complete failure, in consequence of the mutual jealousies and divisions which have broken up the so-called "party of Order" into numberless factions—the leader of each being at variance with all the other leaders upon several political questions of importance, and each refusing to be a part of the other's views for the purpose of conciliation and the general one of the President's second attempt, to come to an understanding of the various parties, has not yet been accomplished. The difficulties in the way of a satisfactory adjustment of rival claims will be understood from the following graphic sketch by the Paris Correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*:

Louis Napoleon will not hear of a Cabinet into which M. Dufaure or any of the members of the *gauche* party have been proposed. His determination to reject the *gauche* situation, the Legitimists have quarrelled with M. Léon Faucher, and declare war against any Cabinet of which he is a member. The Orleanists, disappointed at the rejection of M. Dufaure for the recall of the Bourbons, repudiate the Legitimists, whose leader, M. Berryer, was the prime opponent of that proposition. The partisans of the law of the 31st of May have been equally disappointed, and declare war against the Legitimists, whose modification in that measure. The partisans of Parliamentary supremacy are equally determined in their opposition to M. Berryer, who, during the recent struggle in the Assembly, which ended in the dissolution of the *Assemblée Nationale*, showed that he had no great respect for Parliamentary privileges, and that very little would induce him to join in punishing that respectable body out of the window. Add to this the mutual hatred and animosity which exists between the Legitimists and the Orleanists, and the extent of the difficulty may be conceived. Indeed, it appears almost impossible to bring together a Cabinet which will not fall to pieces the moment that any of the delicate questions about to be discussed shall be brought forward.

The *Débat* believes that a strong Ministry can only be found in a coalition of all the sections of the majority.

The Socialists in various districts continue their indefatigable efforts to excite an insurrectionary outbreak among the working classes, but hitherto without effect. The plan proposed is to set the tumult first in motion in the departments, and not in the capital. The authorities, however, are well aware of the movements of these conspirators, and watch them narrowly; so that they are fully prepared to counteract the whole of the insurrectionary movement.

In the Legislative Assembly on Monday, General Bugeau, who presided, announced to the Assembly that he had received the following letter from M. Dupin, the President of the Assembly:—

Paris, March 31, 1851.
Gentlemen and dear Colleagues.—The incessant continuity of our labours, and the efforts which the exercise of the honourable but painful instructions entrusted to me sometimes require, have not allowed me to take the time to answer the letter which you have done me the goodness to grant me a copy for a month, reckoning from the 15th of April. But at the same time, as the service and the right of the Assembly must not suffer from the delay which is necessary to myself, I consider it my duty to resign the functions of President.

I shall therefore, at the end of May to take part in our common labours, especially as regards the questions which interest to the highest degree the future prospects of the country, and which assuredly deserve care and reflection.

I have the honour, &c., DUPIN.
M. de Valentin expressed a hope that the Assembly would not accept the resignation tendered by M. Dupin. This suggestion was received with great applause, and was having been taken into consideration, it was carried by an immense majority, the Ministry alone standing up against it.

A very serious conflagration broke out at Lyons on Sunday last, when the offices of the Receiver-General were destroyed. The registrar of the public creditors was consumed by the flames, but happily a duplicate copy exists in Paris. Silver, amounting to 230,000, enclosed in an iron safe, was buried among the ruins.

An occurrence took place this week in Paris, which shows in a clear light the ideas the French authorities have on the "freedom of the press." A second edition of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, an important journal, has been found to contain deposits for another and separate publication, the editor of that journal has been tried, found guilty, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment and a fine of 2000.

HOLLAND.

From the Hague, this week, we learn that the Minister of Finance has just submitted to the Lower House of Parliament the eight following important projects of law; viz:—

1. A tax upon Netherlands subjects of 3 per cent. upon all property, shares, funds, &c., domestic countries, which, at a given rate of 30,000,000, promises a yearly revenue of 900,000 florins.
2. Abolition of the tax on turf and coals, from which the loss to the revenue is estimated at 2,200,000 florins. On the other hand, an import duty of 25 per cent. per 100 lb. is imposed on coals, which will bring the revenue 100,000 florins.
3. Reduction of the tonnage from 45 to 30 per cent. This will involve a loss of 2,000,000 to the revenue.
4. Increase of the duty on salt, from which the Government expects 100,000 florins.
5. Reduction of the duty on sugar. From this the Government expects 100,000 florins.
6. Reduction of the duty on wine. From this the Government expects 100,000 florins.
7. Modification of the stamp duty: reduction to one-half of the duty on bills of exchange. This will yield the revenue 100,000 florins.
8. Modification of patents. This project is not yet fully drawn up, so that it is not possible to give an exact estimate of the sum which the Government expects to derive from this project of law; but the sum total of the proposed changes may be given with any degree of accuracy.

TURKEY.

In the northern European provinces of the Ottoman empire, particularly those adjoining the Russian and Austrian frontiers, symptoms of popular discontent have been manifested for a long time past, and have at length ripened into insurrection of a very singular character in Bosnia. The latest advices which have been received are to the 15th of March, from Banjalka, Prioz, and Kozarac, and are favourable to the Ottoman troops, commanded by Omar Pascha. Numbers of wounded insurgents had arrived at Banjalka, which had been re-captured by the Ottoman troops. The Christians are reported to have suffered considerably from the presence of the insurgents at Banjalka. Their church has been destroyed, and they have sought refuge across the Austrian frontier.

The question of the Hungarian and Polish refugees, without leading to any great complications, still causes some embarrassment to the Porte. The Austrian Government insists on the continuance of the refugees being detained at Kutaya. The Porte, moved by a sentiment of humanity, as well as by a sense of its dignity and independence, refuses to admit any difference being made amongst the refugees, and declares that it cannot keep the leaders in the interior of the Empire whilst the others are allowed to go free. In addition, the Constantinople Junta declares that the Porte only engaged to keep the refugees in the interior of the country during the space of one year; after that period it considers itself at liberty to act as it pleases. General Dembinski was to leave Constantinople on the 15th ult., for France.

UNITED STATES.

The accounts received from New York this week are to the 10th ult. The political news since the close of the session of Congress, which were noticed last week, is not of much importance, but the miscellaneous intelligence is of considerable interest.

The question of the Tariff protection to native manufactures, and the success or defeat of the various Whig and Democratic candidates at the State elections in progress, formed the principal topics of discussion in the journals. The opponents of the Fugitive Slave Law keep the majority in the new elections.

President Fillmore had removed from his office one of the postmasters in the United States, on the ground of his being a supporter of the principles of the federal union. This decisive step is looked upon as an indication of the President's future leanings on the slavery question.

Several accidents and occurrences of a disastrous character are noticed in the present review. On the 18th ult., the large edifice known as the Assembly Building, Chestnut street, Philadelphia, which was the first of the first 30,000 dollars. While the consecration was being, a new and spacious church (the Rev. Mr. McDowell's), in Spring-garden, fell to the ground with a terrific crash. Fortunately, no lives were lost. The loss by this fall is estimated at 15,000 dollars. It is sad to observe, in the American cities, that building inspectors were not appointed. About twenty houses have fallen to the ground in New York and Philadelphia within the past year.

The steamer *George W. Kendall* exploded on the 15th ult., on the Ohio river. Twenty-one lives were lost, and eleven persons severely scalded.

New York, on the 16th ult., was visited by a severe cold, which continued, accompanied by hail, rain, and snow, until the 18th ult. without intermission, raising the Hudson river to a higher level than for seven years past. Several disasters occurred amongst the shipping; and the packet-ship *Gay Messenger* broke from her moorings at her pier, and, after striking the pier, was wrecked. Fortunately, she suffered no damage. Numerous shops, houses, &c., were injured. All the outward-bound vessels were detained in port, not being able to make head-way against the wind.

The Captain of the United States steamer, has been appointed to command the national ship which is to convey Kosuth and his companions to America.

The anniversary of St. Patrick (the 17th of March) was celebrated in New York by brilliant and crowded festivals in various parts of the city. The severe weather did not prevent the customers from attending the fair, and the people were at least 500 of the "Young Friends of Ireland," among whom the names of many of the political refugees of 1848 are given.

Savi accounts have been received from the upper Indian country. The Indians were daily striving to do violence to the missionaries.

The papers announce the death of George McDuffie, a distinguished politician, and Governor of South Carolina.

A new constitution has been framed for the State of Ohio, by a convention of the people. It provides for the maintenance of religious freedom, equality of political rights, liberty of the press, and the right of the people to elect every free white male adult citizen is a voter, and elections in all cases are to be by ballot.

General Quitman, Colonel Henderson, and other Cuban invaders, or promoters of invasion, have been discharged from responsibility in relation to the expedition of June last, a *non prosequi* having been entered by the United States Court at New Orleans in each case.

INDIA.

We have accounts this week from Calcutta of Feb. 20th; and Bombay, March 3rd. The reign of peace throughout India. The Nepalese Ambassador, who was attracted to Calcutta last season in the hope of procuring a loan, was well received by his countrymen with profound respect and the warmest enthusiasm. He seems to have profited by his visit to England; for, upon his return to his

native land, one of the first acts he performed was to plan a grand public road from the capital to the frontier, which was to be commenced forthwith. It has been found impossible to obtain permission for Dr. Hooker to travel in Nepal; when once English merchants or travellers are found in an Indian country, English troops were very speedily follow.

The general view of this arrival is of little interest. No discovery has been made of the £10,000 taken from the Oriental Bank, nor of the delinquents concerned in that robbery. A fraud to the extent of between £3000 and £4000 had been discovered in the collection of the wheat-tax.

In the Punjab, no great shocks have been felt, they indicated no great damage. The people, however, lived in dread, lest another shock should prove more disastrous. The peaceful settlement of the country has proceeded so far, that the Board of Administration has found time to turn its thoughts to the education of the people, and it has made a beginning in the establishment of a school at Unian, which has been visited with frequent floods.

The construction of railways, in various localities of India, was proceeding satisfactorily. Great efforts were also being made to provide Bombay with a regular supply of water, that on the spot, abundant as it is for a tropical island, falling greatly short of the wants of the population, now varying on half a million.

The report of Captain Crawford had been most favourably received by the Court of Directors: he proposed a large dam across the mouth of a valley amongst the hills at Salsette, and creating an artificial lake. This would afford the hundred thousand gallons an hour to Bombay, and, in addition, a vast head of water of seventy feet.

It was proposed to be brought in in a 3-foot iron pipe by the line of the railway. The lake would be twelve miles from the point of delivery, and the cost was estimated at £100,000. One gentleman has offered to subscribe £40,000 of it.

A new route for the Surat trade, had just been launched. This is the twelfth private steamer which plies from Bombay with the ports adjacent, mostly the property of natives; the oldest of which, the *Sir James Duff*, was launched in 1842.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

The Consolidated Fund Bill was read a third time and passed.

CHANCERY REFORM.

LORD LYNBURN, referring to the measure proposed by the Government for the reform of the Court of Chancery, observed that the bill would have been more properly introduced in that House, where lawyers of so high experience as to be found in the House of Lords, would have been able to point out the ineffectual measure, and therefore selected the Commons for its *debut*. The whole profession viewed the bill with contempt. His Lordship proceeded to condemn, in particular, the proposition of removing the ecclesiastical patronage from the Lord Chancellor to the Crown.

The Lord Chancellor upheld the right of the House of Commons to originate a measure of this character, if it was thought expedient, but declined to enter upon the discussion of a bill which had not yet been brought forward in either House of Parliament.

LORD BACON, who concurred in some of the censures passed upon the bill, but remonstrated against opening an incidental discussion before the measure was really before their Lordships.

EARL GAST defended the proposed measure, and thought it more advisable that it should be introduced into the House of Commons, where the House of Lords, which was better adapted for revising than originating bills.

After a few words from Lord REDESSDALE, the subject dropped, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

EXPENSES OF ANTI-PALM MEETINGS.

MR. REYNOLDS presented a petition from ratepayers in the parish of St. Luke, Midsex, stating that a meeting had been held in the parish church against Palm aggression, in the month of November last, from which all ratepayers under £30 had been excluded; that a sum of £16 17s. of expenses had been incurred by the holding of that meeting, and that that sum had been paid out of the ratepayers' pockets. The petitioners prayed that the £16 17s. 5d. had been paid to the *Times*, £3 10s. to the *Morning Chronicle*, £3 10s. to the *Daily News*, and £4 17s. for placards and posting. The petitioners prayed the House to inquire into the facts, and ascertain whether this sum could be legally deducted from the poor-rates.

NEW WRIT.

On the motion of Mr. FORBES MACKENZIE, a new writ was ordered for the borough of Enniskillen, vacant by the resignation of the Hon. H. A. Cole.

THE BALLOT.

MR. H. BEARLEY gave notice that he would, on an early day after Easter, ask the permission of the House to bring in a bill to give protection to the voter by the adoption of the Ballot.

WINDOW-TAX.

VISCOUNT DUNCAIN postponed his motion for the repeal of the window-tax to Tuesday.

PRECEDENCE GIVEN TO ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOPS.

LORD J. MANNEKE had a question to ask the noble Lord at the head of the Government. In the year 1847, Earl Grey and the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland had issued certain instructions, whereby precedence was given to all Roman Catholic prelates, and all suffragans of the same rank, in the House of Commons, this, not by the will or desire of the Pope, but by virtue of their nomination to the office by the Pope. He (Lord J. Manneke) asked whether these instructions were still in force; and if so, whether there was any intention on the part of the noble Lord to rectify or modify them.

LORD J. MANNEKE referred to the noble Lord (Lord J. Manneke) are still in force, and there does not at present exist any intention of altering them. (Hear, hear.)

LORD JOHN RUSSELL'S NEW REFORM BILL.

MR. H. BEARLEY begged to ask the noble Lord the member for the city of London (Lord John Russell), whether, in his (the noble Lord's) new plan of electoral reform, he intended to introduce the ballot? (Laughter.)

LORD J. RUSSELL: The hon. member must excuse me from answering the question now. (Renewed laughter.)

THE INCOME-TAX (IRELAND).

MR. CORRELLY wished to know if hon. members for Maynooth (Sir B. Hall) intended to persist in his motion for extending the Income-tax to Ireland, and when it would be brought on?

SIR B. HALL replied that if the Income-tax were renewed as regards Great Britain, it was his (Sir B. Hall's) intention to further that the tax should be extended to Ireland. The time of bringing on the motion must, of course, depend on the proceedings of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and on whether the House decided that the tax on income should be renewed.

THE DEANERY OF MANCHESTER.

MR. M. GIBSON wished to ask whether, when Dr. Bower was appointed Dean of Manchester, the Dean had been understood to have the right which might be imposed on future holders of the office? The Manchester Parish Division Act had been passed last session, and had imposed duties on future holders of the Deanery of Manchester, with the proviso that they should not be imposed on the Dean of Manchester who had been in office at the time of the passing of the Act. Mr. Gibson asked whether there was any understanding that Dr. Bower should conform to the new arrangements?

LORD J. RUSSELL said that when the present Dean of Manchester had been appointed, he (Lord J. Russell) had informed him that he would be expected to conform to the new arrangements. He (Lord J. Russell) had said that he hoped and trusted that the Dean (Dr. Bower) would not object to any conciliatory arrangement. He (Lord John Russell) had not, however, at the time, made any arrangement which would be binding on Dr. Bower.

THE STAMP DUTY ON MONTHLY PUBLICATIONS.

MR. SCHOLFIELD asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether, in the practice of the Inland Revenue, it was the custom to stamp the publication of news on the day of the payment of the stamp duty; also, what is the cause of the delay in the prosecution of the suit against the publication of an un-stamped newspaper, edited by Mr. Charles Dickens, and called the *Household Narrative*, *Current Events*?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, who was not distinctly heard, was understood to reply, that the question as to whether any publications were liable to stamp duty was a matter of law, and on one which he declined to give an opinion. The question of the suit against the *Household Narrative of Current Events* had been, he believed, in consequence of some disagreement between the Chancellor and the authorities of the Inland Revenue Office upon certain points.

MR. SCHOLFIELD thought the right hon. member (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) had misapprehended his first question. He (Mr. Scholfield) did not wish the right hon. gentleman to decide the point of law as to what constituted a newspaper. His question had been, whether a monthly publication containing news was a newspaper?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said, the point was one of law, and he must decline giving an opinion on it.

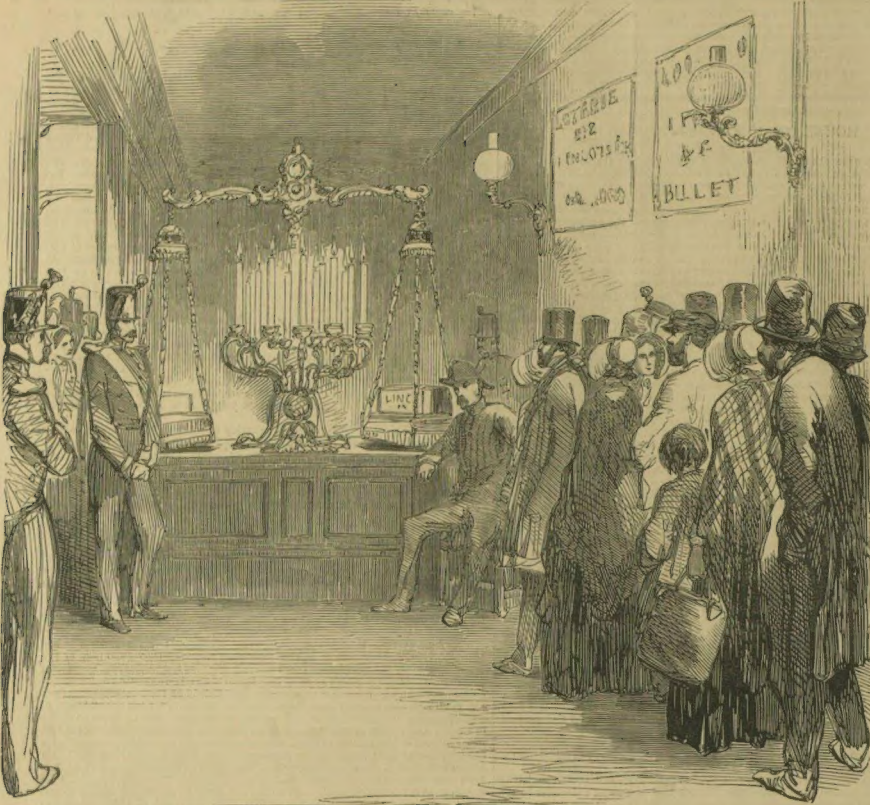
SAVINGS-BANKS.

MR. H. HERBERT asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Registrar of Friendly Societies was authorised by the Government, or by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, to state at a public meeting, held at St. Helen's, in April, 1850, that a bill would, without doubt, be immediately passed by the Legislature, giving to depositors in savings-banks Government security for their investments; and whether it was under the sanction of the Government, or the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, that the Registrar of Friendly Societies recommended at St. Helen's the formation of a new institution (the old one having failed), and advised parties to deposit their savings, on the grounds that future funds would be impossible; and whether the Government were responsible for any losses that may accrue to depositors either at St. Helen's, or elsewhere, who may have been induced, by the advice of this public officer, to invest their moneys in savings-banks?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that the Government were not responsible for any statements made under the circumstances of the case. He could not, of course, then state what views the Government might hold on the various questions relating to savings-banks; but this he might say, that, although the registrar spoken of had in his private capacity made statements at a public meeting, the Government were not bound by them.

THE ARMY IN INDIA.

Colonel DUNNEX begged to ask the Secretary-at-War (Mr. F. Maule) whether



THE "GOLD LOTTERY," AT PARIS.

"GOLD LOTTERY," IN PARIS.

ALTHOUGH in France State Lotteries have for some years been abolished, the French Government have lately lent themselves to "a little go," which is amusingly characteristic.

It appears that the Gardes Mobiles, who so bravely defended the cause of order in the streets of Paris during the Three Days' Insurrection of June, have been disbanded without having their services rewarded in any tangible form. This ingratitude induced M. Clary, one of their elected officers, one of the representatives, and a distant relative of Louis Napoleon, to submit to the House a motion for a Lottery to reward the poor patriots. The measure was, at first, warmly opposed, on account of its illegality, and the stimulant it was likely to administer to the gambling crowd. At length, however, the opponents were silenced, and the measure sanctioned.

The scheme was a tempting one: the price of each ticket was but one franc, the holder of which had a chance of winning several prizes, the

first of which was 400,000 francs, or £16,000. Nor were the prizes flimsy paper, but veritable gold, with the display of which the crowd were baited from morning till night. At the office, in the Passage Jouffroy, the daily display took place in the form shown in the illustration: upon the counter was the balance, containing, in one plate, the golden prize, in shape somewhat resembling a bar of soap, and impressed with the words

Lingot d'Or,
valeur
400,000 fr.

Around the upright supporting the beam was a grove of wax-lights, in handsome branches, to set off the rich lure.

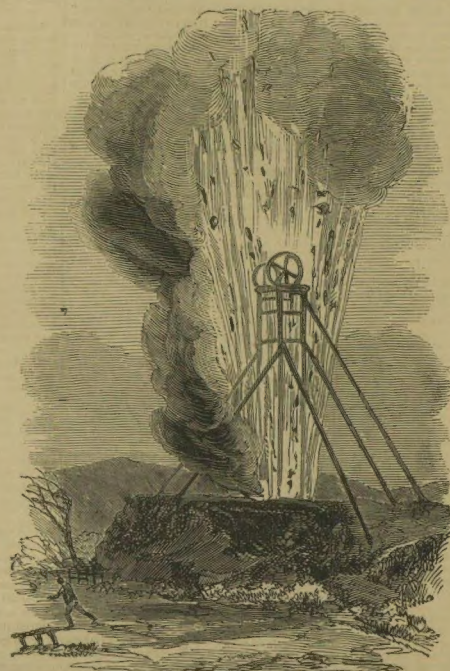
The public were admitted to witness this strange scene, and filed off before the altar of chance, which, by the way, had for its guardians a staff of *sergents de ville*, and soldiers of the Garde Republicaine, or the metropolitan force. Thither flocked the *roues*, bankrupt in heart and fortune;

the grisette, with her faded charms; the poor housewife—nay, even the *gamin* and the street vagabond—to enjoy a glimpse of the glittering prize, and luxuriate in the distant prospect.

THE NITHSHILL COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

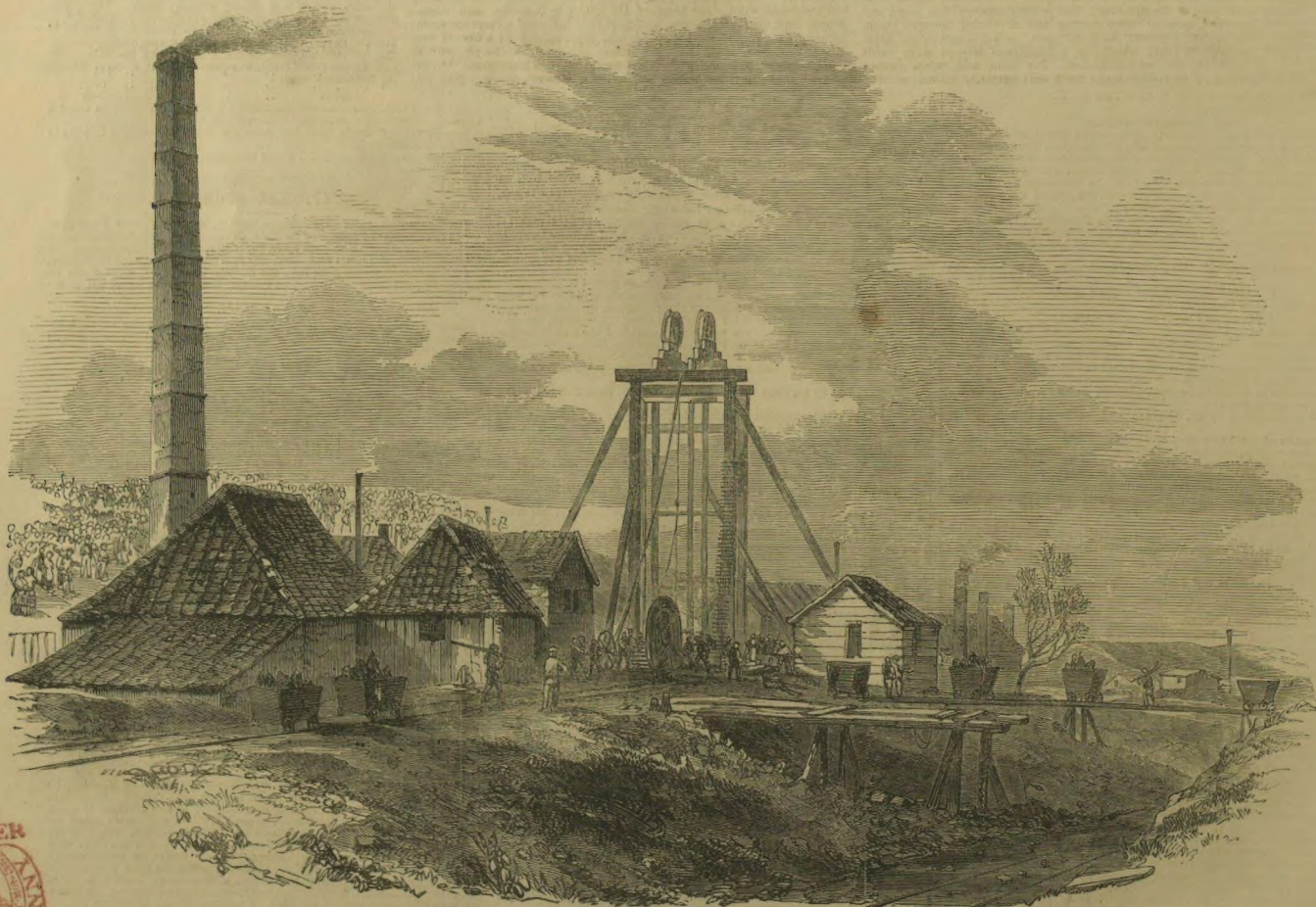
In our Journal of the 22nd ult. we detailed this frightful catastrophe and we are now enabled to add four Sketches of the localities of the sad event.

If anything could tend to mitigate the deplorable consequences of the coal-pit explosion at Nithshill, or reconcile the bereft relatives to their sudden and unprovided for calamity, it would be the generous and unbounded sympathy which the casualty has excited in the breast of every individual in the country, and the ready assistance which all classes in the immediate vicinity have hastened to afford in the decent interment of the dead, and solacing the almost inconsolable distresses of the living. Amongst the multitude of persons of all conditions who have been thus employed in the mission of benevolence, none have been more distinguished for their active humanity than Lord Glasgow, the Lord-Lieutenant of the county, who has been hardly ever absent since the accident, by day or night, from the pit-mouth, exerting himself in producing a feeling of tranquil resigna-



THE EXPLOSION.

tion to this painful and afflicting dispensation of Divine Providence. In addition to this, his Lordship has come forward with a liberal donation of £300 for the temporal relief of those who have been deprived of



THE "FREE-TRADE" TIT.



PITMEN'S DWELLINGS.

their fathers, brothers, husbands, or sons; and also £50 for the compensation of those who have assisted in the recovery of the sufferers from the bottom of the pit. The Messrs. Coates, the owners of the property, who feel as Christians and men the consequences of this deplorable event, and which, it is acknowledged, they had adopted, without regard to expense, every known precaution to prevent, have headed the subscription list with £500 for the relief of the families, and £100 for rewarding those who assisted in exploring the recesses of the pit. This is certainly beginning in a laudable spirit of benevolence, and we hope it will be extensively followed by the affluent and humane in England, Ireland, and Scotland.

Such was the admirable construction of the machinery in this pit, that it was considered worthy of being modelled and sent to the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park. The Messrs. Coates, however, now decline forwarding it, as they imagine—and, we think, very rightly—that it would only tend to excite the morbid curiosity of the public.

Our Correspondent has been conversing with several miners who work in the Victoria Pit, and they all declare, that, for plenty of air and other conveniences, it was one of the best and safest pits in the country. The Messrs. Coates spared no expense in adopting every precaution for the preservation of human life. The cause of the accident is not yet made public, nor can it be until Mr. Dunn, the Government Inspector, has sent in his report to Sir George Grey. This gentleman has made a most searching examination of the pit since the accident, and explored its recesses even at the risk of his life, but he very wisely abstains from gratifying public curiosity on the subject. The Procurator Fiscal, with competent assistants, has also been employed in collecting evidence, but there appears to be not the slightest blame attached to the proprietors, whose practical humanity and unostentatious kindness to the labouring poor has long endeared them to all classes of the community.

One of the Illustrations shows the scene of the Explosion, which is thus described:—David Colville, one of the two men whose lives have been saved, states that at the moment of the catastrophe he was working with three others in a stone cutting at the extremity of the west level. The explosion was indicated by a tremendous rush of air, which was driven in advance of the fire-blast; and looking forward they heard and saw an immense mass of flame roaring and advancing towards them. It fortunately took, however, the first "open" which it met in the direction of the Victoria shaft, which was a distance of fifty or sixty yards short of where the men were stationed. The flame and vapour rushed up this shaft with incredible fury; but it still partially rushed on, and

met the men, who were also striving for the shaft, fairly in the face. Maxwell and Mahan, after going half the distance, were fairly overpowered, and fell down dead; but Colville and Cochrane, while in a staggering state, happily got a puff of "fresh air," as they termed it, which revived them, and they were able to reach the bottom of the shaft. At this spot, after the fiery blast had ascended upwards, a full current of air rushed constantly downwards. They suffered, however, from the excessive cold, but vastly more from the agonizing suspense endured by them for forty-five hours, while they were imprisoned in the bowels of the earth. Hope was excited by the operations which they heard going on in the shaft above them; but of course their fears suggested that they might perish before the spot could be reached in which they held their sad and lonely vigils.

Since the searchers have had an opportunity of exploring with some attention the recesses of the pit, they have had their wonder excited in an unusual degree by the phenomena of the explosion, which appears to be without a parallel in the history of coal-pit catastrophes. Amongst other extraordinary circumstances, it may be mentioned that the stable in which the horses were at the time was blown to atoms, whilst the manger was found at the bottom of the pit, whole and entire, and almost uninjured. The bodies of the poor brutes were blown upwards of fifty yards away, the one being about ten yards distant from the other. Some of the human bodies were found sticking up against the coal pillars, and on being forced away, their clothes, in some instances, adhered to the surface of the column.

On Saturday and Sunday, the 22d and 23d ult., the whole of the bodies found were interred, except two, which were buried on Monday, in the graveyard adjoining Mr. Sheedy's church, at Barrhead, where a pit, containing a great majority of the bodies, was dug. One of our Illustrations shows the mournful scene of the interment.

"In concluding our notice of this lamentable affair" (says the *Glasgow Herald*), "we beg to express an earnest hope that the public will not forget that these poor men—summoned to their account without a moment's warning—have left widows and children in a state of total destitution. All the pains of poverty are added to the distress of having lost the bread-winner and head of the family by a sudden and violent death. Mr. Coates, we learn, will head this list with a very handsome subscription; and we trust that the sum realised will be a liberal one. It is to be hoped, also, that the miners who explored the pit with so much heroism, will meet with a due reward for their exertions. We are assured that they performed acts of devotedness at the most im-

minent risk of their lives, to which all perils of the field of battle offer no parallel. Foremost amongst these were Sir John Maxwell's colliers at Cowglen, and those of Mr. Dixon, of Govan-hill, headed by the gentlemen already named." To these should be added the Messrs. Wilson and Sons, of Hurler.

NOVEL APPLICATION IN MECHANICS.—Mr. Alfred Smee announces that he has contrived a piece of mechanism by which he can show the relation of any number of facts or principles inductively and deductively, and thus perform mechanically what has hitherto been thought to be the province of the mind alone. For the action of the machine, he so arranges the words that every word forms a half of the meaning of the word above it, and comprises the meaning of two words below it. By these means he obtains an arrangement of words having the properties of a geometrical series. When the words are expressed in their proper relations upon the machine, which is constructed upon the same geometrical plan, with the logical readings of all, some, none, the bearings of any number of actions on the machine is indicated, and the conclusion can be read by inspection.—*Morning Post*.

TAUNTON LODGE (engraved in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of last week) is thus described by its supporters:—"The convent commonly called Taunton Lodge is a branch of the order of the first Francis, which took its rise early in the 13th century; the religious exercising every work of mercy and charity, and in many places took the charge of hospitals. This English branch of the institution settled in Belgium 230 years ago; and, as it was entirely composed of British Catholic ladies who did not know the language of the country sufficiently to take charge of an hospital, they confined themselves to the education of the English young ladies. By the first French Revolution these ladies were forced to quit Belgium, in 1794. They resided at Winchester till 1807, when they settled at Taunton, where they continue to educate a select number of young ladies, and have likewise a day-school, where a certain number of poor children are taught gratis."

THE SCHOOLMASTER ABOARD.—On Saturday last, at the Bloomsbury County Court, an action was brought by a modeller, named Wild, against Joseph Wyld, Esq., M.P. for Bolton, to recover a sum of £5 8s. 4d., alleged to be due to him for one week's wages, £4, and £1 8s. 4d. money paid on the defendant's behalf. It appeared that the plaintiff was engaged in August last as foreman of the works for erecting the great globe in Leicester-square, and to receive for his services £4 per week. In November, however, he was discharged without notice, and he now claimed a week's wages. The defence was, that the plaintiff was unable to execute the work he had contracted for; and in proof of this assertion it was stated that he had placed California in England, and Panama in Egypt. His Honor observed that this decided the case, and he thought that the defendant was justified in acting as he had done. The defendant had paid £2 into Court, which was quite sufficient to cover the plaintiff's outlay on the defendant's behalf.



FUNERAL AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF BARRHEAD.

COUNTRY NEWS

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—The Marquis of Breadalbane and Sir Rodick Marchmont had an interview with Lord John Russell, at his official residence in Downing-street, on Monday, and presented an appeal from the British Association for the Advancement of Science, in favour of a sufficient Parliamentary grant to ensure, within a reasonable time, the completion of the proposed railway from Glasgow to Aberdeen. The Marquis had made a similar appeal in 1844, when the body first visited Scotland, and yet a sixth part only of that kingdom has been mapped in the intervening sixteen years. The other members of the committee were the Duke of Argyll, Sir David Brewster, and Professor James Forbes, are in Scotland. The memorial was backed by the cordial approval of the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Aberdeen, Lord Dalhousie, Lord Clarendon, Lord Cowlin, and many proprietors in Scotland.

THE DUKE OF BUNSWICK made a second attempt to cross the Channel in the Victoria balloon on Monday, at Hastings. An immense number of spectators congregated on the occasion. The wind prevailed from the north or north-north-west, having a westward tendency, and becoming somewhat strong and variable at mid-day, the weather being favourable. At one o'clock Mr. Green, the aeronaut, was enabled to get up, after having previously made a small machine for enabling him to skim over the water at a fixed elevation. A gutter, reaching above 200 feet long, had three logs of wood secured to it at intervals near its extremity. The grapple was attached to two metallic air-vessels, sufficient to enable it to float upon the water. Bladders of air were provided to be attached to the grapple, and to be inflated by means of a pump, which was attached to the buoyancy of the huge machine, the aeronautic captain pronounced all to be ready. The Duke, who went by the name of Mr. Smith, got into the car, the balloon was released, and went up. Mr. Green and his passenger in admirable style, standing away to the south-west, at a moderate pace, and remaining in the air for about an hour and a half, the morning breeze being favourable. At past one o'clock. Soon after leaving the earth the balloon partially entered cloud, but presently began to descend, and, when last seen, was only at a slight elevation from the water. The intention of Mr. Green was to let his logs sink, and float upon the water, so that he might be able to get up again without the aid of the balloon gas. The aeronauts, after a passage of five hours safely alighted at the village of Neuchâtel, about eight miles from Bonlogne.

Milite. Angri has been an especial favourite with the three composers, Rossini, Meyerbeer, and the late Spontini, the last-mentioned musician



MDLLE. ANGRI, OF THE ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT-GARDEN.

having dedicated to her an elegant sonnet, in which the extent of her beautiful and sonorous voice is duly eulogised. Mdlle. Angri's style is essentially dramatic; she is thoroughly in earnest on the stage; and if her style were more refined, she would yield in merit to no contralto of the past or present period. It is quite marvellous with what ease she can conquer the most difficult divisions in bravura passages; and when she has a passionate sentiment to deliver in the lower portion of the register, she never fails to command the sympathies of her auditory. She is re-engaged for the opening night, on Thursday, as *Arsace*, a notice of which will be found elsewhere.

MADAME FIORENTINI.

MADAME CLAUDINA FIORENTINI, the present young and popular *prima donna* at Her Majesty's Theatre, is the daughter of B. Williams

Esq., British Consul at Seville. Her first appearance on the stage was at the Grand Opera at Berlin, in 1849, as *Norma*: her success was immense, and during the season of six months she enacted all the chief characters of the lyric drama. At the close of the season Madame Fiorentini was engaged at Dresden, and subsequently at Hamburg. By the express wish of the King of Prussia she was commanded to appear at Potsdam, as *Norma*, in which character she at once stamped herself as a tragic vocalist in the very foremost rank of *prime donne*.

For her musical education Madame Fiorentini is chiefly indebted to the instruction of Signor Crivelli, who may be justly proud of his distinguished pupil. Nature has endowed her with a superb organ—rich, full, resonant, and faultless in intonation. Her phrasing is admirable, and her style free from exaggeration and meretriciousness. In the part of *Madame Anterstrom*, in Auber's splendid opera of "Gustavus," her singing and acting are marked with intensity of passion, and force and delicacy of vocalisation.

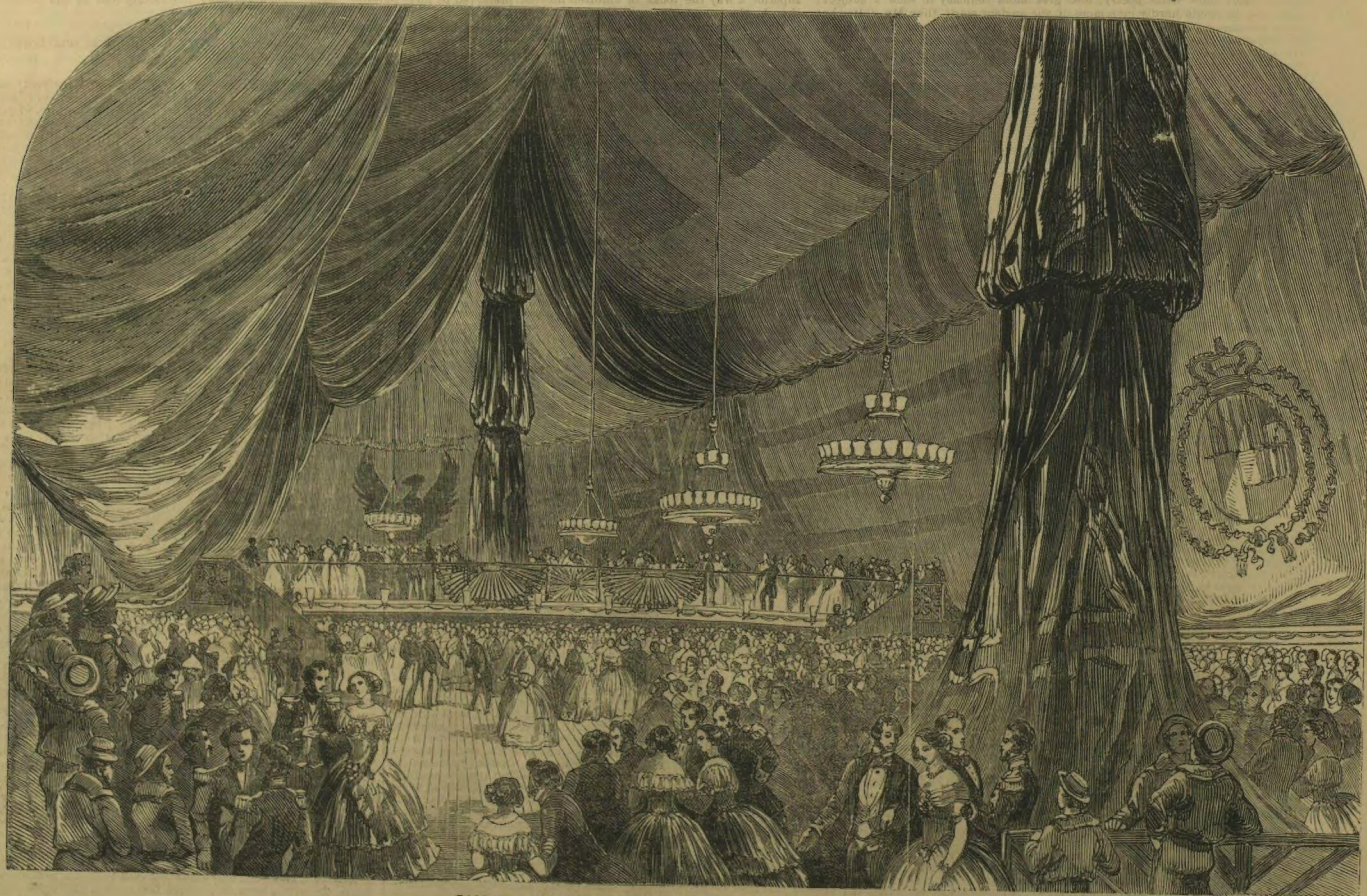


MADAME FIORENTINI, OF HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

HER MAJESTY'S SHIP "WELLESLEY."

A BALL on board ship is a very gay affair, although its appointments may not be of such finished elegance as in our *salons* on land. The nautical *feite* is a comparatively rare occurrence; hence the novel sight is worthy of illustration. The accompanying scene was sketched on board her Majesty's ship *Wellesley*, Port of Spain, and shows the majestic vessel as arranged for a ball on the 18th of February. The main deck was crowded with company; foremost amongst whom were the Admiral Ear of Dandonald, and Captain Goldsmith, commanding the *Wellesley*.

We learn that by the death of Admiral of the White Sir Edward Hamilton, Bart., Vice-Admiral Thomas Earl of Dandonald, G.C.B., Commander-in-Chief on the West India and North American station, becomes Admiral of the Blue, and, on being relieved by Vice-Admiral Sir George Seymour (still wind-bound at St. Helen's), will come home flying his flag at the main of the *Wellesley*.



BALL ON BOARD HER MAJESTY'S SHIP "WELLESLEY," PORT OF SPAIN.

EXHIBITION OF THE
SOCIETY OF
BRITISH ARTISTS.

(Continued from page 256.)

MR. ANTHONY, who for the last two years was such a generous contributor of very yellow landscapes to the walls of this Exhibition, has, it seems, got tired of yellow, and has fallen just as passionately fond of bright green. Among his ten contributions we may instance, as very violent in this way, an ivy-crested church-tower, covered with the green mantle from a stagnant pool, as if the artist, indeed, had mixed a salad with his oil. Yet, in all this provoking oddity and untruth to nature, there is no denying that he is a painter. His two "Welsh Interiors" show how much he has studied nature, Rembrandt, and De Hooghe; while his "John of Padua Gate at Caius College, Cambridge"—to our thinking, his best work in the Exhibition—reveals a knowledge of the way in which pictures of this kind should be treated—how the details of architecture may be pictorial, and yet true, and what way a building may be represented by an artist who feels the truth and beauty of what he sees before him. Mr. Ruskin has well explained this subtlety of pencil in what he says of Mr. Prout, in his recent work the "Stones of Venice."

One of the mainstays of the Society of British Artists is Mr. Baxter, always a careful artist—careful in conception, careful in execution. His circle of three female heads, occupying the centre of the great room, and called, somewhat fancifully, the "Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle," is a charming arrangement, most sweetly and delicately painted. Another circular picture by the same artist, (225) "At the doubtful breeze alarmed," is in the same style, and hardly inferior, while the head of Mr. Topham, the celebrated artist in water-colours, is a good example of Mr. Baxter's skill in drawing the portraiture of men.

Mr. Salter, who loves to dream of classic lands and heathen ceremonies, and to paint, thinking of Titian and Poussin all the while, is this year happier than we remember to have seen him for some time. No. 170, "The Marriage Festival of Bacchus and Ariadne," by this artist, is a carefully considered picture, and in a less slovenly style of execution than has of late been too observable in his works. Mr. Frost would show more poetry, and give more delicacy to such a subject; but he would hardly give more of the ancient spirit than Mr. Salter has succeeded in supplying. A small female figure to the knee (oval-shaped), by the same artist, in another room, is graceful and delicate.

We are glad to observe that Mr. J. J. Hill still supplies us with sheep-

herd-boys of the true Allan Ramsay and Bloomfield school. There is a small full-length, by this artist, of a shepherd-boy and his dog (No. 388), suggestive of pastorals such as Spenser wrote, and Pope ought to have written. But Mr. Hill should not confine his pencil too much to pastoral life. His "Master W. Ingram" (No. 8), a small full-length portrait boy in white, seated, shows what he can accomplish in another walk of art, and in how superior a way the looks of children may be preserved to their parents than by the too popular process of the Daguerrotype.

Mr. Woolmer has been to Versailles, and renewing his acquaintance with Watteau; but, while he has much of Watteau's grace and delicacy, he wants the spirit and resources of the master, and, above all, he wants

up, and the sun, setting redly and angrily in the sea, tips with fire the crests of the still tumbling waves; and, shining on the sea-weed clustered ledges of a desolate reef, illuminates a group of shipwrecked mariners." The wrecked vessel is almost hidden, and some of the "poor mariners" cast at her a wistful look, whilst others crouch about the rock in despair; and their suffering is made more appalling by the red sunlight. Their sad story is fearfully told in the picture, which is full of pathetic and poetic feeling.

A School of Industry has just been established at Madras, under the auspices of Dr. Hunter.



PORTRAIT OF MASTER W. INGRAM.—PAINTED BY J. J. HILL.—EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

his skill and beauty of pencil in all his details. The "Sleeping Beauty" (100), by the same artist, is an imitation of MacIse.

Two small pictures, by a Mr. G. Smith, in Mr. Hunt's manner, and called "Labour" and "Enjoyment" (257 and 265), are perfect in their way. One is a boy at his lessons; the other is the same boy asleep over his lessons. Both are marked "sold." Indeed, there is scarcely a picture in the whole Exhibition at all above the common mark that has not found a purchaser, without the assistance of the Art-Union.

Mr. Clater, in his "Saturday Night," has done something beyond his usual level of success in similar subjects. Mr. Her ring has not lost one particle of his skill in rendering horses and ducks. While, in the landscape line, Mr. Allen, Mr. Hassell, Mr. Boddington, Mr. Tennant, and the two Wilsons add, as before, to the attractions of the Exhibition. No. 320, by the younger Wilson, a small circular picture, "Beech Trees in Knowle Park, Kent," is perfect in its way.

Among the contributions of artists but little known, we may here mention a clever (No. 339) "View from Richmond Hill," by J. P. Pettitt; (No. 480) "Venus and Adonis," by F. Cowie (much in Eity's manner) (No. 530) "The Seventh Plague," by J. Dobbin (a large water-colour drawing in the style of Martin); and (No. 669) "Fields, near Streatham, Surrey," a small oblong drawing in water-colours, by J. W. Whymper.

There is not, let us add, a solitary specimen of sculpture in the whole Exhibition. Is not this an unusual feature?

"POOR MARINERS."

PAINTED BY T. DANBY.

In our notice of the opening of the Exhibition of the British Institution, we thus described this contribution by Mr. T. Danby:—

"A gale has just broken up, and the sun, setting redly and angrily in the sea, tips with fire the crests of the still tumbling waves; and, shining on the sea-weed clustered ledges of a desolate reef, illuminates a group of shipwrecked mariners." The wrecked vessel is almost hidden, and some of the "poor mariners" cast at her a wistful look, whilst others crouch about the rock in despair; and their suffering is made more appalling by the red sunlight. Their sad story is fearfully told in the picture, which is full of pathetic and poetic feeling.

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"POOR MARINERS."—PAINTED BY T. DANBY.—EXHIBITION OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

REPAVEMENT OF LONDON-BRIDGE.—In consequence of the anxiety manifested by the Bridge-house Estates Committee connected with the Corporation of the city of London, that that important thoroughfare, the carriage-way of London-bridge, should be repaved as rapidly as possible, Mr. Chadwick, the Engineer, has been engaged to superintend the work. The work to be done will consist of granite blocks of excellent quality—larger ones, similar to kerbstones, being laid longitudinally from the southern to the northern shores of the piers. The pavement of King William-street is to be relaid during the progress of the works at the bridge. It is expected that the work will be completed in the month of May.

UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION.—On Wednesday the first lecture of the season was given in the hall of this institution. The lecturer was Major Adams, and the paper read was "On the guns and projectiles employed in the British service." The hall was crowded with members and their friends, the gallery being filled with non-commissioned officers of the line and of the army. The lecture, which was delivered by a technical lecturer, was listened to throughout with evident attention and interest. Major Adams' practical knowledge which his position attests, adds great lucidity of style and clearness of arrangement, and communicates his information in a manner to render it attractive even to non-professional persons. His essay on this occasion was a masterly review of the history of, and the latest improvements in, gunnery,



MONUMENT RAISED AT KOHAT BY SIR CHARLES NAHER, G.C.B., AND THE OFFICERS OF THE 31ST NATIVE INFANTRY, BENGAL, OVER THE REMAINS OF LIEUTENANT W. H. SITWELL.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

Adalbert of Prussia. The *Nix* is only 550 tons burden, and carries four long 8-inch guns, mounted on slides, with Colonel Colquhoun's pivots, and Mr. Ferguson's gun-carriages; she is also fitted for four additional 32-pounder broadside guns. For this new system of armament, a patent has been granted to one of the constructors of the *Nix*; and by it the effective armament of a paddle-wheel steamer is rendered double that hitherto used; while she is enabled to fire two of her midship-guns, each way, parallel to the keel.

On Thursday, the 27th ultimo, the war-steamer *Nix* was tried on the Thames, both as to her rate of steaming, and the effectiveness of her armament, in the presence of his Excellency the Prussian Ambassador and suite; and of M. Devrient, of the Prussian Naval Commission. With his Excellency were Madame Hunsen and a party of friends. Sir Roderick Murchison, who has long taken an interest in this peculiar system of construction, was also present; as well as several experienced officers of the Royal Navy, Captain Codrington, Captain Key, and Capt. Elliott, who were desirous of seeing whether the new system of armament could be effectively used.

On passing down the Thames, the vessel was tried at the measured mile; and it is to be observed that she was deep laden with all her armament, ammunition, stores, and water on board. She was tried with the tide and against the tide, and realised a mean velocity exceeding 14 English miles an hour. When light, her speed is 15½ English miles per hour. As soon as she gained the open sea, her firing commenced. Two of the long 8-inch guns were fired simultaneously, without producing any sensible concussion on the vessel. They were fired repeatedly with a charge of 10 lb. of powder and an 8-inch ball. But the important experiment consisted in seeing whether the guns could be fired parallel to the keel. This was done repeatedly, with perfect success. The experiment was then pushed to the extreme; and two guns, pointed at an angle of convergence of 2½ degrees with the keel, were fired at the same instant, and the shot converging crossed each other at a distance of 136 yards from the bow.

It is to be observed, that these vessels carry coals for ten days' consumption, on less than 8 feet of water.

The *Nix* is the second vessel of the same class which has been constructed by Messrs. Robinson and Russell for the Royal Prussian navy; the former vessel, the *Salomander*, sailed to Prussia during extremely hard weather last winter, with her full armament, and deeply laden with coal for the voyage; and was proved, by a naval commission at sea, in addition to her great speed and heavy armament, to possess all the qualities of a good sea-boat.

CAST-IRON LIGHTHOUSE FOR BARBADOES.

We lately had an opportunity of inspecting minutely one of Mr. Alexander Gordon's Cast-iron Lighthouses, as temporarily erected by and at the iron-works of Messrs. H. Grissell and Co., Eagle Wharf-road, New North-road. We believe Mr. Gordon to have been the first engineer to introduce cast iron for this useful purpose; the advantages of which, in point of economy, durability, and rapidity of execution, are unquestionable. Seen at a short distance from the above-mentioned works, it forms a handsome column of good proportions, the lantern and gallery at top giving a complete finish to the design. The figure of the column is conical, its lower external diameter being 13 feet 6 inches, and that of the top part under the gallery, 10 feet 10 inches. The height of the column is 82 feet 6 inches from the lowest flange to the underside of the lantern floor. The outside gallery is supported by twenty open cast-iron brackets. The shell of the tower is constructed of cast-iron concentric plates, having vertical and horizontal flanges inside, which are bolted together throughout; the meeting surfaces having been previously planed, and the whole made perfectly water-tight by a thin seam of red-lead. The lower plates are 1 inch thick, while those of the upper part of the column are reduced to ½ of an inch in thickness. The flanges throughout are 4 inches wide, and 1½ inches in thickness, except those which are at the top of the upper plates, and likewise those which are at the bottom of the lower plates; in these cases the flanges are 6 inches in width. In twenty-one of the plates, window spaces or openings have been left, with proper return flanges to receive the frames, which are of East India teak wood, fitted with polished glass ¾ of an inch in thickness. All the windows are hung with strong hinges and fastenings, so as to be opened and secured closely at pleasure. The external door, which is also of East India teak wood, and 3 inches thick, is hung with hinges of gun metal,* and is furnished with a stout lock and other fastenings. In the centre of the column is a vertical hollow cylinder, to be used as a channel for the weight of the revolving machinery of the lantern, and also for raising and lowering provisions, stores, &c. It is 1 foot 4½ inches diameter in the clear, and composed of six lengths of cast-iron pipe or tube, connected together by means of horizontal flanges, bolted together as described for shell. There is a small door in

* Copper and tin, in the proportion of about 9-10ths of the former and 1-10th of the latter.

each of the upper lengths of the cylinder corresponding to the respective floors. The floors are of wrought iron, 5-16ths of an inch thick, resting partly on cast-iron beams, of ½ an inch thick, with top and bottom flanges, and also on the horizontal flanges of the shell. In each floor an opening or well-hole is left for the staircase: the stairs are fixed radially round the internal columns, by means of wrought-iron stringings or carriages, the risers of the same material; the treads are of teak wood, 1½ inch in thickness, and 9 inches in width. Wrought-iron balusters, ½ths of an inch in diameter, and hand-rail of the same material, and 1½ths inch wide, and ½ths of an inch thick, complete the staircases.

The external gallery is inclosed by wrought-iron balusters 49 inches in height, and 1½ inch diameter, riveted into hand-rail of the same material, 2½ inches wide, and ¾ of an inch thick; the lower ends being screwed into the brackets which support the floor-plates of gallery.



CAST-IRON LIGHTHOUSE, FOR BARBADOES.

The living-rooms, which are towards the top of the column, are lined throughout with 8-inch close boarding, having skirtings and cornices, which, together with all the wood-work, except that of teak, has been prepared by Payne's process, which, in many instances, has been found to be of a preservative character. Ventilation is provided for by the introduction of four circular open-



THE "NIX," PRUSSIAN WAR-STEAMER.



THE GREAT EXHIBITION BUILDING.—COLOSSAL STATUE IN THE FOREIGN NAVE.

ings, of five inches diameter, covered with copper wire net-work. From these four openings as many copper tubes are conducted to the ventilators, also four in number, which are fixed in the lantern floor; valves similar to those used in ventilating stoves complete the necessary arrangement.

There is also another important provision worthy of being mentioned. Two lightning conductors of copper wire rope will be conducted from the top of the Lighthouse down into the rock on which it is to be erected.

It now only remains to describe the lantern, which is of polygonal form in plan, consisting of sixteen sides, being 11 feet in external diameter. The frame of the lantern, including the stanchions, or uprights, the sill, the top plate, and also the cross-bars, is of gun-metal, and 4 feet 9 inches high. The glass is of the best polished plate, half an inch thick, secured to the frame by means of gun-metal fillets. The roof consists of stout riveted plates of copper, which are riveted to cast-iron rafters, resting on a gun-metal plate. The roof is surmounted by a copper cowl, with vane and spindle complete; the opening or mouth of the cowl being covered with a strong copper wire grating. The plinth of the lantern, forming the light-room, is constructed of cast-iron plates, 5 feet high, and sixteen in number; being three-quarters of an inch thick, and having vertical flanges, perforated for the bolts by which they are secured together.

The revolving machine is furnished with twelve lamps, and as many powerful reflectors, which are of a paraboloidal form. The two principal wheels are each of 15 inches diameter. The driving-shaft is so arranged, that, by means of a clutch at top, the lamp and reflector frame may at pleasure be put into or out of gear as respects the machinery, which is inclosed in a neat mahogany case. The brass lamp belonging to each reflector is furnished with an argand burner, having a spiral motive arrangement for elevating the cottons when required.

The whole of the iron-work, except the floors, both internally and externally, is covered with several coats of paint.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION.

M. Jean du Seigneur has rapidly advanced his colossal group in the nave of the foreign division, representing St. Michael, the patron saint of France, overthrowing Satan. The subject is from the description in Milton's "Paradise Lost." The group, when complete, will stand 13 feet high, the figures being 9 feet each in proportion. It is a bold and original conception. With this solitary exception, the French department exhibits a listless and culpable want of activity and provision for the opening on the 1st proximo. Little but talk seems to have resulted from the repeated meetings and conferences of the contributors; indeed, at one of those lately held it was solemnly discussed whether a sufficiently adequate guarantee to the value of the French goods could be provided by the Royal Commissioners, and as solemnly decided in the negative, and that, too, with Prince Albert, the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord Overstone, Mr. S. M. Peto, and Alderman Thompson amongst the members of the Commission.

THE "ABERGELDIE."

This first-class clipper-built ship, of 600 tons, has lately been launched from the building-yard of Messrs. Walter Hood and Co., of Aberdeen. The vessel is named from the estate of Abergeldie, which adjoins Balmoral, and is let under a forty years' lease to his Royal Highness Prince Albert; and, in appropriate taste, an excellent figure-head of the Prince, in full Highland costume, adorns the prow of this princely ship, which

is considered to be the finest model that has yet been launched by her eminent builders. It is the opinion of those well qualified to judge, that the *Abergeldie* will combine the properties of sailing and carrying in a degree hitherto unapproached by any of the fine vessels of a similar construction which have been built at the port of Aberdeen. The vessel is the property of Mr. George Leslie, and is now on her voyage to China.

Much has lately been said of the feats of the *Oriental*, American ship, of 1060 tons, which, carrying a cargo of about 1100 tons, has made the passage from Canton to London in 98 days. There appears to have been some unauthorised boast about the matter. At the time of the *Oriental* arriving, her voyage was contrasted with that of the *Reindeer*, an Aberdeen clipper, of 328 tons, which sailed from China about the same time, and with her copper hanging loose about her, and carrying 500 tons of cargo, was only beaten five days in the passage from Anjeer; and also with that of the *John Bunyan*, another Aberdeen ship, which, in the previous spring, when perhaps more favourably situated as regards the monsoons, made the voyage from Shanghai—three days' sail farther than Canton—in 99 days; and which, though registering only 470 tons brought about 720 tons of cargo.

The *Reindeer* was built by Messrs. A. Hall and Co., and the *John Bunyan* by Messrs. Walter Hood and Co.; thus showing that these great ship-building firms have attained to a high degree of perfection in their business. The *Reindeer* and the *Oriental* are now both on their way to China, and great interest is excited as to the result of their respective voyages.

We are happy to learn that the ship-builders of Aberdeen are fully employed: two very large vessels are being built under cover, as in the Government dockyards, and they will very shortly be launched.



THE "ABERGELDIE," ABERDEEN CLIPPER.

In 1850 (Ersted published at Copenhagen a work entitled "Om



HANS CHRISTIAN GERSTED.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY CLAUDET.

Spirit in Nature; being a Popular Contribution towards Illustrating the Spiritual Influences of Nature;" and in 1851 a second edition of the first part was published.

"Gersted," writes a friend of his from Copenhagen, "was loved and esteemed by every one who knew him. Men of the highest rank were happy to associate with him, and held it an honour to be admitted to his family circle. He was learned, of the highest morality and honour, and the best spouse and father."

Gersted did not long live to enjoy his beautiful residence; after a short illness, he died, surrounded by a numerous family, on the morning of the 9th of March, at the age of seventy-four, at the residence so recently conferred on him by his Sovereign. He married, May 17, 1814.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. C. MITCHELL.

On Friday (the 21st ult.), a massive silver tea and coffee equipage and salver were presented to Mr. C. Mitchell. The testimonial was purchased by upwards of 200 authors, proprietors, and editors of the provincial press, with a few private friends. The subscription (which amounted to £170) was originated by some gentlemen connected with the "country press," who felt deeply sensible of the services which Mr. Mitchell had rendered their order in various ways, particularly in his "Newspaper Press Directory," and in establishing a "Literary Agency," by means of which a regular intercommunication between London authors and publishers, and the proprietors and editors of the pro-

vincial journals, is kept up. It was also intended to mark their sense of his personal urbanity and kindness.

The presentation took place at the Sussex Hotel, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, in the presence of a select circle of friends; and the day appropriately chosen was Mr. Mitchell's birthday. Mr. T. Henderson, of the *Portsmouth Guardian*, occupied the chair; and the testimonial was presented by Mr. F. G. Tomlins, honorary treasurer, with an address in very good taste; to which Mr. Mitchell replied in feeling acknowledgment.

The Plate, which is of excellent design and manufacture, by Mr. Joseph Angell, Strand, consists of a silver coffee-pot, tea-pot, sugar-basin, milk-jug, and cream-ewer, all richly chased in arabesque style, displaying foliage, flowers, and acanthus scroll; also a silver tea-kettle and stand to match; and a nineteen-inch salver, surrounded by a light Grecian pierced border, and enriched with an engraved centre bearing the following inscription:—

Presented, with a tea and coffee service and kettle, to Mr. CHARLES MITCHELL, of Red Lion-court, Fleet-street, and Edith-grove, New Brompton, by upwards of two hundred authors, proprietors, and editors of the newspaper press of the United Kingdom, and a few private friends, in testimony of their high appreciation of his zealous aid, and of his commercial talents and probity.—March 21st, 1851.



PLATE PRESENTED TO MR. C. MITCHELL.

The same inscription is engraved upon a shield on the side of the tea-kettle. The weight of the entire service is upwards of 270 ounces.

INTERIOR OF THE NEW CORN-EXCHANGE, NORTHAMPTON.

In our Journal of last week, we detailed the auspicious circumstances under which this handsome building has been erected for the corn trade and townspeople of Northampton, in the heart of which it is placed.

The front, which is devoted to the purpose of a Corn-Exchange, consists of a Hall, nearly of the same dimensions as the Music Hall at Birmingham; the length being 140 feet, and the width 65 feet. The



MR. CALVERT, LATE M.P. FOR AYLESBURY, FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY KILBURN.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

height is 59 feet—6 feet less than the Birmingham Hall. The roof is elliptical, an improvement in appearance, and probably also in respect of sound—no unimportant matter in a building likewise destined for musical meetings on a large scale. No galleries, as in the case of the Birmingham Hall, mar the general effect, which is light and cheerful.

The Building was opened last week for business, and a sort of house-warming took place on Wednesday evening, when M. Julien, with his attractive corps of performers, gave a concert, which drew together a crowded audience. But a more imposing inauguration of the Exchange is contemplated, in the character of a Musical Festival, on Tuesday and Wednesday in Easter week, under the able superintendence of Mr. Charles M'Korkell, the organist of All Saints Church, Northampton. It is to comprise the performance of the "Creation," the "Messiah," and a miscellaneous concert, on a scale hitherto unattempted in Northampton. Upwards of thirty years have elapsed since an oratorio was performed in this town, when the Church of All Saints was then used for the occasion. Objection has of late years been made to the appropriation of a sacred edifice for such a purpose; and the present magnificent Building now affords an opportunity for the revival of first-class musical performances, which it is to be hoped will not be overlooked.

The architects are Mr. Hull (not Hall, as stated last week), of Northampton; and Mr. Alexander, of London.



INTERIOR OF THE NEW CORN-EXCHANGE, NORTHAMPTON.